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Tuckamony Nursery
Doylestown, Pa.
HOLLY CULTURE

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A truly handsome holly tree is a cherished possession. Its dense growth, beautiful foliage and abundance of crimson fruit is not just a matter of chance but the result of good selection and proper planting and maintenance. A little time spent doing the right thing at the right time can be a long term investment in year round beauty. We hope the following cultural suggestions will be of help to you.

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HOLLY POLLINATION. Hollies are different from most trees and shrubs in that they are dioecious, that is, the male or pollen bearing flowers are on one tree and the female or berry producing flowers are on another. Pollen is carried by insects, mostly honey bees, so to insure good crops of berries the two should be planted not too far from each other. Of course the male and female must be of the same species. One male can supply pollen for about ten females.

WHEN TO PLANT HOLLY. Like most plants, hollies are best planted when dormant. Trees several years old may be planted in either spring or fall but small potted plants in spring only; however, hollies two years old or more that have been grown in cans or wire baskets may be planted at any time of year the soil is in good condition.

WHERE TO PLANT. It is best to give red berried evergreen hollies some protection from strong winter winds in the colder areas. Most hollies (except some southern varieties) can withstand very cold weather but a quick drop in temperature is not good, especially for some of the less hardy. A good location is one that provides light shade on late winter afternoons.

SPACE REQUIRED. Hollies are too beautiful to spoil by crowding. Bush varieties require little space but American and English hollies should have an area of at least sixteen feet in diameter.

THE HOLE. No matter how small the tree is, dig a BIG hole; three feet or more in diameter and two feet deep. If the soil is heavy clay make it ever larger and deeper and fill the bottom with gravel to assure good drainage. For hollies at least, the old saying "spend more on the hole than you do on the tree" is true.

PLANTING. Holly grows best in well drained, humus-rich soil. One third or more of peat moss, sawdust, leafmold or lime-free compost well mixed with soil is ideal. If the tree is a small potted one, completely fill the hole with the soil-humus, well packed, then re-dig a little hole in the center and plant. If the tree is balled or has been grown in a can or wire basket, fill the hole with the soil humus mixture to a depth that will bring the tree to the same level as in the nursery. Leave burlap, can or wire basket on (can should have slits made in sides with hatchet) and when hole is three fourths full, run water in slowly until it overflows. After water has settled fill hole to top.

WATERING. Continue to soak the soil thoroughly once a week for the first summer, except when rainfall is ample. Always make sure there is plenty of water in the soil just before freezing weather.

FERTILIZING. Cotton seed meal and castor pomace are good organic fertilizers especially when combined with tobacco dust or stems. Give a double handful to a little plant to a bucket full for a six foot tree. If stable manure is used it should be well rotted. 'Holly-tone' is excellent. It is a 4-6-8, 80% organic fertilizer with trace elements and an acid base. If used sparingly commercial fertilizer such as 5-10-5 can be used to supplement organic applications. As the tree matures the amount of nitrogen should be reduced in order to make less branch growth, eight inches being about right. Fertilize in early spring, applying at least as far out as the branches extend. Holly prefers a slightly acid soil, about pH 6.0 is best.

MULCHING, conserves moisture, keeps down weeds and prevents injury due to freezing and thawing. Peat, sawdust, pine needles, corn cobs, straw and leaves are among the good mulches. Never cultivate around a holly as this disturbs the feeder roots near the surface. If the tree is located where mice are apt to give trouble by feeding on the roots and bark, pull the mulch several inches away from the stem just before freezing weather.

Pruning benefits a holly tree by making it more dense and improving the shape. Fortunately a good time to prune is just before Christmas. Use sharp pruning shears or knife. NEVER break branches off.

GROWTH. Hollies when propagated by cuttings, grow rapidly when young. Annual height increases of eighteen inches to two feet is common. As the tree matures, growth is less.

FRUITING. Red fruited hollies, when grown from cuttings, often have berries the first year but most varieties are erratic in their bearing for the next several years, finally settling down to yearly crops when about six years old. When a mature tree fails to bear the most usual reasons are: it is a male or, it is a female but with no male near by to pollinate it.

Most hollies are comparatively free from insect and disease pests. Occasionally the following are encountered.

The holly leaf miner is a small fly which, in the larva stage, feeds between the upper and lower surfaces of the leaves leaving discolored splotches and irregular lines. When the attack is light the blemished leaves can be hand picked in the fall or very early spring and burned immediately. If this is not practical, spray at the time three or four small new leaves which have formed at the ends of the new growth. Use one oz. of 50% wettable DDT in 3 gallons of water.

The red spider mites feed on the upper leaf surfaces leaving them a dull, dusty gray-green color. They are sometimes found on azaleas and many other plants. If you suspect red mite trouble, check by tapping a branch several times over a sheet of white paper. They are very tiny so look carefully. Control by spraying in EARLY July with one oz. of 15% wettable ARAMITE in 3 gallons of water.

T U C K A M O N Y N U R S E R Y

Located on Route 263 between Lahaska and Solebury - Phone: Sugan 2427
P.O. address: R.D.2, Doylestown, Pennsylvania.
Member: Holly Society of America

Besides many fine varieties of HOLLY we also grow other evergreen shrubs including: PIERIS JAPONICA, YEWS, ARBORVITAE, BOX AZALEAS, JUNIERS, etc.

GREENER HILLS NURSERY at the same location grows: MULTIFLORA ROSE, EVERGREEN TREES, FLOWERING SHRUBS AND TREES, PLANTS FOR WILDLIFE, etc.

